

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 017267

46

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

EUR-12 IGA-02 AID-05 /083 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA:GSICK:CEJ

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

DOD/ISA - MR. NOYES

NEA/ARN:MMAUGHAN

NEA/EGY:FMATTHEWS

PM/SAS:MPASZTALANIEC

NAVY:VADM. MOORER

JCS:RADM PACKER

AF/E - MR. ILLING

----- 123328

R 230403Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO SECDEF

CNO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T STATE 017267

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 017267

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BA

SUBJECT: REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR MIDEASTFOR

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD FOR INFO

1. DURING THE FIVE MONTHS SINCE THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN NOTIFIED US OF ITS INTENTION TO TERMINATE THE PRESENCE OF MIDEASTFOR IN JUNE 1977, DOD HAS REVIEWED POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF SUPPORT FOR THE FORCE. IT IS EVIDENT THAT CONTINUED OPERATION OF MIDEASTFOR IN THE ABSENCE OF THE BAHRAIN FACILITIES WOULD NECESSARILY ENTAIL A REDUCTION OF FUNCTIONS AND GREATER OPERATING COSTS. CONSEQUENTLY, OUR POLICY TO DATE HAS BEEN TO RECOGNIZE BAHRAIN'S RIGHT TO TERMINATE THE STATIONING AGREEMENT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO AVOID FORECLOSING THE OPTION OF REMAINING SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES SO DICTATE.

2. THE GOB HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION OF CHANGING ITS MIND WITH RESPECT TO MIDEASTFOR, AND IT IS UNLIKELY TO DO SO UNLESS THE REGIONAL CLIMATE OF OPINION SHIFTS SIGNIFICANTLY. IN THAT REGARD, A NUMBER OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ARE WORTHY OF NOTE.

A. THE SHAH HAS ENCOUNTERED SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN HIS ATTEMPT TO ATTRACT ARAB SUPPORT FOR A REGIONAL SECURITY PACT. GIVEN IRAQ'S CONTINUED MILITARY TIES WITH THE USSR, HE MAY HAVE SIGNALLED A MORE FAVORABLE VIEW OF A US PRESENCE IN THE GULF IN THE NOVEMBER 17 BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW WHERE HE INDICATED SUPPORT FOR AN INCREASED US PRESENCE AND ADDED: "I WOULD PREFER THAT NEITHER WERE IN THE PERSIAN GULF BECAUSE THERE IS NO NEED FOR THEM. BUT IF THE SOVIETS ARE THERE, WHY NOT THE AMERICANS?"

B. THE ROLE OF MIDEASTFOR ITSELF HAS BEEN EXPANDING INTO NEW AREAS OF TRAINING AND CLOSE COOPERATION WITH A NUMBER OF REGIONAL NAVIES. THIS INCLUDES THE COORDINATING ROLE PLAYED BY COMIDEASTFOR DURING THE RECENT MIDLINK 75 EXERCISE AND THE ON-THE-JOB-TRAINING (OJT) OPPORTUNITIES WHICH MIDEASTFOR SHIPS HAVE PROVIDED FOR KUWAIT, ABU
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 017267

DHABI, OMAN AND SAUDI FORCES. THE OJT CRUISES HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL AND HAVE GIVEN RISE IN EACH CASE TO SUGGESTIONS FOR A CONTINUED OR EXPANDED TRAINING ROLE IN THE FUTURE. KING HUSSEIN ALSO EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN OJT FOR JORDANIAN FORCES WHEN HE VISITED USS LASALLE DURING ITS CALL AT AQABA IN OCTOBER.

C. THE MIDEASTFOR COMMAND SHIP IN OCTOBER MADE THE FIRST

CALL TO PORT SUDAN BY ANY US SHIP SINCE THE 1967
MIDDLE EAST WAR, AND RECENT REPORTING INDICATES THAT QATAR
MAY SOON REOPEN ITS PORTS TO MIDEASTFOR UNITS AS THE
EFFECTS OF THE "INVASION; REPORTS OF LAST YEAR SUBSIDE.
PRESIDENT HAMDI OF THE YAR RECENTLY WELCOMED COMIDEASTFOR
AS A "FRIEND OF THE FIRST ORDER,; AND NOTED THAT THE
MIDEASTFOR PRESENCE IS "A REASSURANCE TO THE WEAK NATIONS"
IN THE AREA.

3. CERTAIN PLANNING ACTIONS REGARDING LOGISTICS, PER-
SONNEL, AND SHIP SCHEDULES NEED TO BE TAKEN IN THE
COMING MONTHS. REQUEST VIEWS OF ACTION ADDEES ON
REGIONAL VIEWS OF MIDEASTFOR PRESENCE AND PROSPECTS OF
DEVELOPING CONSENSUS OF SUPPORT FOR RETENTION OF MID-
EASTFOR FACILITIES IN BAHRAIN. SISCO

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, MIDEASTFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE017267
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GSICK:CEJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760026-0634
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760126/aaaaaxaf.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR MIDEASTFOR KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD FOR INFO
TAGS: MARR, BA
To: MANAMA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006